



**MAUREEN E. FEENEY
BOSTON CITY COUNCIL**



July 21, 2010

Attorney General Martha Coakley
Non-Profit Organizations/Public Charity Division
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Department of Public Health
Determination of Need Program
96 Chauncey Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02111

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to express my strong support for the proposed transaction between Steward Health Care and Caritas Christi Health Care addressing, in particular, its potential positive impact on Carney Hospital. Carney Hospital is an important and valuable asset to Dorchester and the surrounding communities. Among other benefits, this arrangement will strengthen Carney Hospital's ability to continue its good work among the people of these communities. I could never support a proposal that would in any way diminish that value. I have full confidence in the ability of Steward Health Care (and Cerberus) to allow Caritas Christi to continue to operate Carney Hospital in a way that will be consistent with the values and services of which we are all so proud.

You have heard testimony on the facts and financial data which make this proposal necessary for the future of Caritas and Carney. I do not need to repeat them here but let me touch upon a few of the more salient points. Carney is a major employer in Dorchester. The loss of these jobs would have a devastating economic impact on the community and surrounding neighborhoods. In addition, with an initial capital commitment of \$100 million for Caritas hospitals, a commitment which includes \$10.2 million for a new Operating Room Suite at Carney, Steward Health Care has shown a commitment to Carney Hospital and to the community. These capital projects mean even

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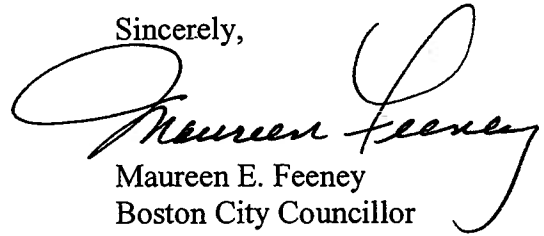
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more jobs for Massachusetts. Also, Cerberus has already made a pledge to maintain the current \$67 million in annual community benefit spending. With so many of our residents having Caritas Christi Health Care as their present or former employer, this deal ensures stability, and, very importantly, permanently secures these employees' pensions. Most importantly, this proposal will fund the Caritas and Carney Hospital mission of providing high-quality, low-cost healthcare.

I know that there is always some trepidation when converting from a non-profit to a for-profit hospital. I understand these concerns and agree that this transaction is deserving of special care and attention and that you may appropriately attach conditions for this transaction to go forward. However, as you deliberate, I once again would like to emphasize Carney's multi-faceted presence as a health care facility, an employer, and community partner. I write to express my belief that this is the best opportunity for Carney Hospital and Caritas to move forward and continue to serve their communities with distinction. Their patients deserve no less.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Maureen Feeney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Maureen E. Feeney
Boston City Councillor

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